

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJECT: FIRST ANNUAL YEMENI EMIGRANTS' CONFERENCE CONCLUDES
MEETINGS IN SANA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED DELEGATES
REPRESENTING YEMENIS LIVING IN ELEVEN COUNTRIES --
INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES -- COMPLETED FIRST EVER
CONFERENCE MARCH 12, UNDER DIRECT YARG SPONSORSHIP.
DURING ACTUAL SESSIONS SCHEDULED MARCH 6-8, CONFEREES
ADDRESSED BY EVERY LEADING YARG OFFICIAL INCLUDING
COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAMD. SEPARATE MEETINGS
ARRANGED FOR SELECTED GROUPS WITH MILITARY FIGURES
LIKE CHIEF-OF-STAFF ABDALLA AL-GHASHMI. WIDE VARIETY
OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY PENENARY WITH MOST IMPORTANT
REQUESTING A) ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL
EMIGRANTS' AFFAIRS OFFICE; B) ASSISTANCE IN PROTECTING
YEMENI PROPERTY FROM NATIONALIZATION IN ETHIOPIA
PARTICULARLY; AND C) RECOMMENDING ESTABLISHMENT REGIONAL
CONSULATES IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED
STATES. A SECOND CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE
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CALLED IN 1977. END SUMMARY.

2. EMIGRANTS' CONFERENCE, WHICH HELD IN SANA WEEK OF MARCH 7, OUTGROWTH OF YARG INTEREST IN TREATMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF ESTIMATED 1.2 MILLION YEMENIS RESIDEING OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY AS WELL AS CONCERN AT REPORTS OF PDRY ATTEMPTS TO SOW DISAFFECTION TOWARD HAMDI REGIME AMONG OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND WORKERS.

3. IN SUMMER 1975, HAMDI INDICATED PERSONAL INTEREST IN TREATMENT AND CONDITIONS OF YEMENIS ABROAD (AND ESPECIALLY IN ETHIOPIA AND SAUDI ARABIA) AND PROMISED CONVENE APPROPRIATE FORUM IN ORDER DISCUSS THEIR GRIEVANCES AND DESIRES. IN ETHIOPIA'S CASE, CONCERN FOCUSED ON NATIONALIZATION OF YEMENI PROPERTTY AND ON PHYSICAL HARM SUFFERED BY SOME EXPATRIATE YEMENI MERCHANTS. INTEREST IN WORKING CONDITIONS OF YEMENIS IN SAUDI ARABIA CONDITIONED BY LARGE PERCENTAGE OF EMIGRANTS WORKING THERE.

4. SANA CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 200 DELEGATES REPRESENTING WORKERS AND STUDENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE GULF, SOMALIA, JORDAN, DJIBOUTI, UNITED KINGDOM, USA, USSR, IRAQ, SUDAN, AND EGYPT. LIMITED NUMBER OF CONFEREES FROM EACH COUNTRY SELECTED WITH ASSISTANCE LOCAL EMBASSIES, ALTHOUGH LARGE NUMBER OF UNOFFICIAL DELEGATES ATTENDED SESSIONS AS WELL. FOUR PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS ATTENDED AS REPRESENTATIVES YEMENI COMMUNITY IN U.S. (YAHYA MUHAMMAD MAWRI; MANA ALWAI AL-HAJAJI; MUHAMMAD MUHSIN AL-HAJAJI; MAHYUB AL-JAHIM). ETHIOPIA REPORTEDLY REFUSED TOSANCTION ATTENDANCE AT MEETING BY DELEGATION REPRESENTING ITS YEMENI COMMUNITY, A DECISION FORMALLY REGRETTEED IN ONE OF CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

5. CONFERENCE ADOPTED NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT PLENARY HELD MARCH 8. EIGHT RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN FIELD OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THESE LARGELY AFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR HAMDI REGIME AND JUNE 13, 1974, CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT WHICH BROUGHT HIM TO POWER. EMPHASIS ALSO GIVEN TO IMPORTANCE OF REORGANIZING JUDICIARY INSTITUTIONS TO ENABLE THEM TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ADJUDICATE PROBLEMS OF ALL YAR CITIZENS. CONFERENCE CALLED UPON YARG TO REQUEST ETHIOPIA AND FRENCH (READ DJIBOUTI) AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO YEMENIS RESIDENT THESE AREAS AND TO COMPENSATE THEM FOR LOST OR NATIONALIZED PROPERTY.

6. ONE UNEXPECTED RESOLUTION WAS PASSED WHICH PRAISED YARG EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN ON BEHALF YEMENI WOMEN IN ORDER TO ENABLE

THEM TO OBTAIN AN EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC LIFE OF YEMEN.

7. FIVE RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CONTAINED STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE, AGAINST ZIONISM, AND IN FAVOR OF PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF SAHARA AND LEBANON ISSUES. CONFERENCE ALSO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO FOREIGN AID DONORS AND TO EMIGRANTS' HOST COUNTRIES.

8. AMONG OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS, CONFERENCE CALLED FOR CREATION OF GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD CWOER TO NEEDS OF EMIGRANTS AND ENLIST THEIR FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. CONFERENCE ALSO RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF GENERAL EMIGRANTS' CONFEDERATION, HEADQUARTERED IN SANA, WITH BRANCHES IN ALL HOST COUNTRIES TO HELP HANDLE EMIGRANTS' PROBLEMS. HOST COUNTRY LAWS GOVERNING ACTIVITIES SUCH ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IF SUCH A CONFEDERATION ESTABLISHED.

9. YARG WAS REQUESTED REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO YAR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES, IN PARTICULAR, VOICED INTEREST IM HAVING GREATER SUPPORT AND LIAISON WITH CULTURAL SECTIONS ATTACHED TO SUCH MISSIONS.

10. ADDITIONALLY, CONFEREES RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF YEMENI CONSULATES IN CERTAIN AREAS OF USA, UK, UAE, AND SAUDI ARABIA. NO SPECIFIC CITIES CITED BUT MUCH SUPPORT VOICED FOR OPENING CONSULATE IN DETROIT WITH SECOND POSSIBLY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

11. COMMENT. DESPITE EXTENSIVE RADIO AND PRESS COVERAGE, LITTLE GENUINE PUBLIC INTEREST IN EMIGRANTS' UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE. MEETINGS USUALLY DEVELOPED INTO INDIVIDUALS PETITIONING VISITINGMINISTERS FOR ASSISTANCE IN SPECIFIC PERSONAL PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, HAMDI'S INTEREST IS TO MAKE HIMSELF (NOT PDRY) THE YEMENI NEXUS FOR IMPORTANT EMIGRANT COMMUNITY. HAMDI ALSO SOUGHT ANOTHER FOURM IN WHICH TO PROJECT HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS. EMIGRANT FORUM SERVES THIS PURPOSE NICELY ALTHOUGH IN YEMEN, WITH PERHAPS ONE THIRD OF MALE LABOR FORCE ABROAD AND RETURNING VERY LARGE AND VITAL INCOME, EMIGRANTS PROVIDE VERY IMPORTANT CONSTITUENCY FOR ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL REASONS. HE CLEARLY ALSO WANTS TO ENSURE THAT RETURNING EMIGRANTS WILL NOT ENGAGE IN POSSIBLY SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES UPON THEIR RETURN. NOT SURPRISINGLY, CONFERENCE'S FIRST RESOLUTION -- IN ADDITION TO AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR

JUNE 13, MOVEMENT -- CAUTIONED EVERY YEMENI, BOTH
"INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY," TO BE ALERT TO ANY
ATTEMPT TO "DISTURB ITS PROGRESS."
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